


	<b>Installation Instructions</b> Engineered Bamboo HDF Flooring For Assistance, Call: 1-800-986-3460 Homedepot.com/homedecorators	<b>Products Description</b> Engineered Bamboo HDF Click-Lock joints	<b>Grade Levels</b> Above Grade / On Grade Below Grade	<b>Installation Method</b> Floating	<b>Model #1000 000 000</b> Item #xxx-xxx
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 **WARNING: CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS:** This product can create wood dust and emit formaldehyde of which are known to the State of California to cause cancer.

 **CAUTION: ASBESTOS IN EXISTING FLOOR:** Home Decorators Collections product does not contain asbestos. Existing installed resilient flooring and asphaltic adhesive may contain asbestos fillers or crystalline silica. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "cutback" adhesive or other adhesive. See "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" (rfci.com) for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

 **CAUTION: WOOD DUST:** Sawing, sanding and machining this product can produce wood dust. It can cause respiratory, skin and eye irritation. Avoid prolonged exposure to wood dust. Power tools should be equipped with a dust collector. If possible, perform wood dust generating activities outdoors. If high dust levels are encountered, use an appropriate NIOSH-designated dust mask.

Safety and Health Precautions

Power tools can be dangerous. Operate in strict accordance to manufacturer's operating instructions and safety precautions. Unsafe and improper use can cause serious injuries. Avoid inhalation and exposures to wood dust by mechanical means and by wearing personal protective equipment. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes NIOSH or OSHA approve dust masks, safety goggles and work gloves.

Warranty

This flooring product comes with a manufacturer Limited Wear Warranty. The warranty applies to the original purchaser of the flooring. It warrants the original purchaser that the finish surface will not wear through for the duration of the stated warranty from the date of purchase. Contact our Customer Service Team at 800-986-3460 to request a written copy which provides detailed terms of coverage and limitations.

Pre-Installation

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

The owner is advised to be at home during the installation for consultation/direction. The owner and installer should discuss installation and layout to maximize satisfaction. If this is not possible, consultation should be done prior to installation. Installers should be familiar with installation guidelines from National Wood Flooring Association (woodfloors.org). The owner/installer assumes all responsibility for product quality of completed installation.

PERFORM PRE-INSTALL INSPECTION. FOR CLAIMS PURPOSES, YOU ARE ALLOWED TO OPEN UP TO 4 BOXES FOR PRODUCT INSPECTION. DO NOT OPEN ALL THE BOXES. OPENING ALL THE BOXES CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRODUCT. INSPECT ALL THE PLANKS IN THESE 4 BOXES CAREFULLY. EXAMINE FLOORING FOR COLOR, FINISH AND QUALITY. IF YOU DISCOVER THAT PRODUCTS ARE DEFECTIVE, OR IF MATERIAL IS QUESTIONABLE, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE RETAILER. IF YOU ARE SATISFIED, PROCEED WITH INSTALLATION.

Prior to installation, rack up planks from several boxes to ensure uniform distribution of colors, shades and characters in the installed flooring. Planks having similar widths should be placed together in the same row to minimize gaps between boards.

Allow the bamboo flooring to acclimate to the installation area for a minimum of 24 to 48 hours before installing. Bamboo floors are natural products containing natural variations in color, tone, grain, streaks, nodal marks and other characteristics found from plank to plank. They are normal and it does not mean the product is defective. Purchase flooring to be installed in one large area at the same time. Product purchased at a later time than the first purchase may vary beyond your expectations.

Accessories, trims and moldings are manufactured to coordinate with the varied appearances of the floor planks. Any exact matches are coincidental. Non-matching accessories are not defective products.

This product is manufactured according to strict quality standards. In the event that defects are discovered in the field, the industry standards permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. Order an additional 5% extra for cutting wastage and grading allowances (10% for diagonal installations).

During installation, inspect the planks continuously. Defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or held out. Installing defective planks implies acceptance.

Squeaking and clicking noises are the result of interactions among flooring, joists and subfloors when they move. Limiting the movements of the flooring system usually eliminates most of these noises. Sometimes, it is impossible to eliminate them completely and minor squeaking or clicking noises are to be accepted as normal flooring phenomenon.

Minor scratches can generally be repaired with the use of putty, stain or filler. It is an industry standard practice of flooring installation and it should be accepted as normal by the home owner.

To assure the warranty is not inadvertently voided, before proceeding with any activity that is not covered in this manual, please contact our Customer Support Team at 800-986-3460.


CONCRETE SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

- Concrete subfloors must:
- Have minimum rated strength of 3000 psi.
  - Be level to within 1/8 in. in a 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. span; no bumps or low spots. High spots can be removed by grinding; depressions can be filled with patching compound formulated for use in floor installation.
  - Be clean; no construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; if necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation; no protrusions of nails, debris, metals should remain.
  - New concrete slab must cure for at least 60 days. It must have a minimum 10 mil polyethylene sheet between the ground and the concrete.
  - Be free from moisture related conditions which can damage the installed flooring.

CONCRETE MOISTURE

Test all concrete subfloors for moisture content and document the results. Visual checks are not reliable. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near walls containing plumbing, near foundation walls and in the center of the room. Minimum sample size is 3 samples per 1000 sq. ft. of area and one test for every additional 1000 sq. ft. thereafter.

- Moisture content should meet one of the following criteria:
- 4.5% when tested using Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter.
  - Less than 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. per 24 hours when using Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F 1869).
  - 75% when using Relative Humidity Testing (ASTM F-2170).

 **NOTE:** Concrete moisture content may be acceptable the time of the test. These tests do not guarantee a perpetual "dry" concrete slab. The concrete slab moisture content can vary at other times of the year. We are not responsible for moisture-related damage to installed flooring.

WOOD SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

The subfloor must be clean; no presence of construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; no protrusions of nails, debris, or metals should remain. If necessary, scrape and sweep the subfloor before the installation.

The subfloor must be structurally sound and stable; no movements or squeaks; no loose panels or loose nails; no signs of ply de-lamination or other damages. Repair all shortcomings before installation.

The subfloor must be flat; no visible bumps or low spots; the subfloor should be flat to within 1/8 in. in 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in 10 ft.. Test for moisture using a reliable moisture meter. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near foundation walls, near walls containing plumbing lines and in the center of the room. Measure 20 locations per 1000 sq. ft.. Moisture content of the subfloor should be less than 12%. Moisture content difference between the subfloor and flooring should be 2% or less.

PLYWOOD OR ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB) SPECIFICATIONS

On truss/joist spacing of 16 in. (406 mm) O/C or less, the industry standard for single-panel subflooring is a minimum 5/8 in. (19/32 in., 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 plywood subfloor panels (CD Exposure 1) or 23/32 in. OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4 ft. x 8 ft. sheets. Expansion gap between panels should be 1/8 in. (3 mm). If panels are not tongued and grooved and there is not sufficient spacing or is inadequate, cut in the required spacing with a circular saw. Do not cut in expansion space on tongue and groove panels.

PARTICLE BOARD OR FIBER BOARD

Only for floating installation.

EXISTING FLOORS

Installation over existing floor requires the installer to consider potential issues related to moisture damage, adhesive failure and fastener failure. Contact the adhesive and fastener manufacturers respectively for their specific instructions, recommendations and requirements.

Acceptable floor coverings include: solid hardwood, linoleum, terrazzo, ceramic tile and other "moisture sealing floors."

Unacceptable floor coverings include: carpet, needle punch felt, edge glued linoleum and other "moisture absorbing flooring."

JOB SITE CONDITION

Prior to installation, the installer must ensure that at the time of installation, the job site conditions including subfloor/substrate, ambient temperature and relative humidity, and all impacting variables will not negatively affect the floor. The manufacturer will decline responsibility for damages associated with improper installation or poor site conditions.

STORAGE AND CONDITIONS

Do not store flooring in uncontrolled environmental conditions. For example, garages and exterior patios are not acceptable areas to store flooring. Handle and unload bamboo flooring with care and store within the environmentally controlled site in which it is expected to perform. Flooring stored on a concrete slab should be elevated at least four in. to allow air circulation under cartons.

EXISTING HOME

An existing home should have a consistent room temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 35%-55%. Continual deviation from these conditions will affect the dimensions of flooring. When using a heater during winter months, humidity may be much lower than the acceptable range. A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage in bamboo flooring due to low humidity levels. During the warmer months, maintain humidity levels using an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically.

NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REMODEL

All work involving water, such as pouring basement concrete floors, drywall and plasterwork, plumbing, etc. must be completed well in advance of the floor delivery. Ensure that the building is enclosed. Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air conditioning systems should be operating at least five days preceding installation and should be maintained during and after installation. If it is not possible for the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that simulates normal living (occupied) conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system is fully operational. Your job site should have a consistent temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 35%-55% which should be maintained continuously thereafter.

RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION AREA

DO not install bamboo flooring in wet areas such as bathrooms and mud rooms.

BASEMENTS AND CRAWL SPACES

Concrete slab or ground must be dry. Ensure that crawl spaces have open vents year round to ensure proper air circulation and prevent moisture build up. The ground in the crawl spaces must be completely covered using 6 mil black polyethylene. Crawl space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 18 in. and the perimeter vent area should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code.

RADIANT HEATED SUBFLOOR

This product can be installed over radiant heat concrete subfloors. The radiant heat system should be operational for at least 7 days before beginning installation. Turn off heat to allow the subfloor to cool down to room temperature 3-4 hours before beginning the installation. After the installation is completed, turn on the radiant heat immediately, and gradually return to normal levels. The finished floor surface must not exceed 85° F (29°C) for the life of the floor. Because radiant heat creates a dry heat that can lower interior humidity levels, it may be necessary to add a humidifier to maintain the humidity level between 30-55% to prevent damage to the hardwood floor. Consult with the radiant heat system manufacturer to ensure that the system is compatible with hardwood flooring.

MOISTER BARRIER/UNDERLAYMENT PADDING

**CONCRETE SUBFLOOR**  
When installing over a crawl space or concrete slab, it will be necessary to use a moisture barrier to prevent moisture migration. A plastic film with a minimum thickness of 6 mil should be placed with a 4 – 6 inch (101.6 – 152 mm) overlapped seam, and taped with a suitable tape, this should be combined with an approved underlayment padding for floating floors. The preferred option is to use a 2 in 1 underlayment which is a padding and moisture barrier combined; you can also use a 3 in 1 underlayment which also provides sound insulation.

SOUND CONTROL UNDERLAYMENT

Check with the sound control manufacturer for application guidelines. Generally, the less compressive underlayment is preferred.

EXPANSION GAP

A required gap width of 3/8 – 1/2 in. is required around the perimeter of the floor and between the floor and all vertical obstructions. Do not place permanently mounted structures such as kitchen counters/cabinets on the installed floor.

TRANSITION MOLDING

Floating installation, transition T-molding is required in the following cases: floor spanning greater than 30 ft in width and 40 ft in length; all doorways; floor areas interrupted by wall sections extending out of the wall; floor areas which are not rectangular; wall openings-with or without doors; L shaped rooms or otherwise not rectangular rooms requires T-molding to split it into rectangular sections.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS BASICS

- Tape measure • Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both) • Chalk line & chalk • Hammer • Electric power saw • Carbide tipped saw blade for fine cut • NIOSH-designated dust mask • Hand saw or jamb saw • Eye protection • Straight edge or Spacers • Pry Bar • Mallet • Broom • Color matched wood putty • Tapping block • Pull bar • Painters tape

Helpful Pointers

GENERAL TIPS

- Make sure your work area is well lit. Good visibility ensures that color is consistent and that visually defective planks are detected and removed.
- The minimum length of the first and last plank is 8 in.. If the last plank will be less than 8 in., adjust the length of the first plank. The remainder of the last plank can be used as a starter board on the following rows.
- Using a shorter piece at undercut door jams will help when fitting flooring in place.
- Never hit the flooring directly with the tapping block and be careful not to fracture floor edges.

CUTTING THE LAST ROW TO WIDTH

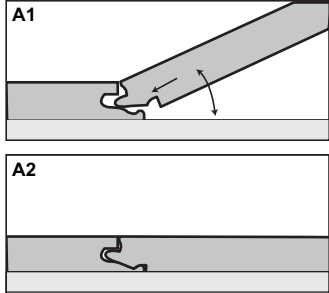
- Most often the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space.
- Measure the distance between the floor face edge (exclude the tongue) to the wall. Subtract 3/8 – 1/2 in. from this measurement for expansion gap. Draw a line. Cut through the line. Discard the excess piece. Proceed with the installation

Installation Methods

Uniclic® is a revolutionary system for installing the flooring without using glue. Because of the unique shape of the tongue and groove, you can install the planks in several different ways: Make sure your work area is well lit. Good visibility ensures that color is consistent and that visually defective planks are detected and removed.

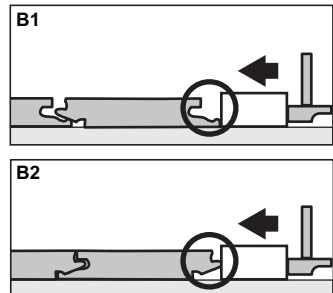
METHOD A (PREFERRED)

Position the plank at a 20-30° angle to the plank already installed. Move the plank gently up and down while pushing forward. The plank will then automatically fold into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove or the groove on to the tongue. The tongue in groove method is most common, and also the easiest. Never force the plank to lay flat, always help it to fold into position.



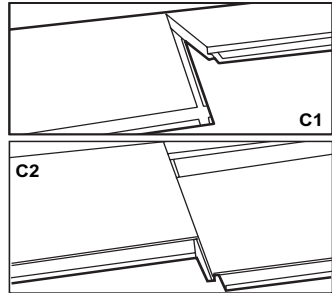
METHOD B

You can also tap the planks into place with a tapping block and hammer without lifting the planks. For this method you will need a special tapping block designed for 3/8 in. (9 mm) flooring. The planks should not be tapped together with a single tap. To avoid damaging the plank, you must tap them together gradually.



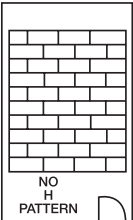
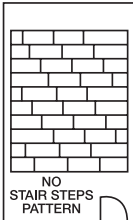
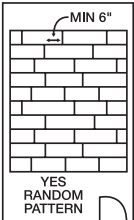
METHOD C

With the fold-down end joints, line up the ends of the two boards (Diagrams C-1 & C-2) with the tongue of the long side of the plank inserted into the groove. Then lower into place (Diagram C-1). When working towards a door frame and you need to install under it, lay the final piece flat with the tongue of the short end of the plank in the groove, slide in as far as possible with your hands, and then use a tapping block to gently tap into the final position. Then continue installing the planks normally to finish the row.



Preparing for Installation

- Ensure subfloors are clean.
- Lay out several cartons. Randomly rack planks to ensure good color and shade mixture and end joint spacing. Minimum end stagger is 6 in.. Inspect plank quality and grading.
- Lay out trim moldings in advance and find planks whose shade closely matches. Set these aside for future use.
- Remove the existing base, shoe molding or threshold carefully. They can be used to cover the 3/8 – 1/2 in. expansion gap left around the edge of the room.
- Undercut doors and casings using a handsaw laid flat on a piece of scrap flooring.
- Install the underlayment (if used) parallel to the flooring according to the underlayment manufacture instruction. Any overlap (top) should be on the same side as the groove of the flooring so that the floor planks will slide smoothly into place. Tape all seams. Secure the underlayment material as necessary to prevent excessive movement.

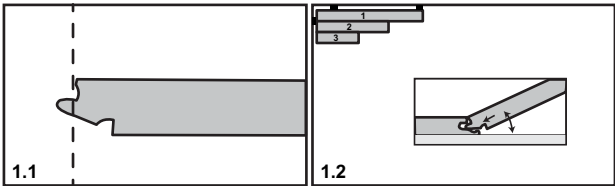


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## Installation

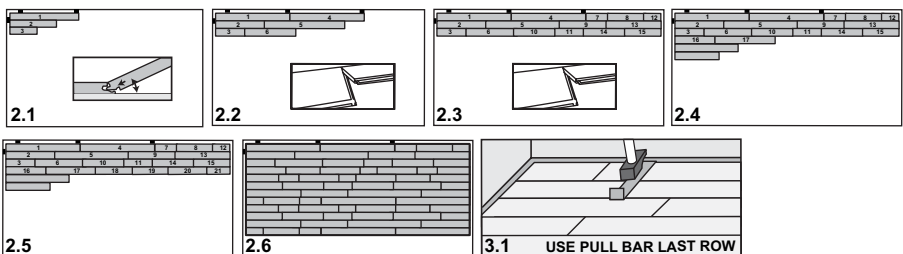
### 1 INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW

- a. Remove the tongue portion of the planks that will go next to the wall to allow room for expansion. To do this, take two full size planks and cut 1/3 and 2/3 off the planks (be sure that the cut sides will be next to the wall); this will give you two cut planks to start the second and third rows.
- b. Place the full plank close to the wall, then add the larger of the two cut planks (aligned to the left, cut edge next to wall); then take the third smaller cut plank and do the same. Do not use the short boards for starting a new row; pieces cut when finishing a row can usually be used to start the next row. Be sure that all cut planks are at least 8 in. (203 mm) long, and that the end joints are never closer than 8 in. (203 mm) from the next end joint in another row.



### 2 INSTALLING THE SECOND AND REMAINING ROWS

- a. Follow the procedures shown in Figures 2.1 - 2.3 for the first three rows; you can then push these three completed rows into place along the wall. Be sure to use spacers or scrap pieces of flooring along the wall to maintain the expansion gap. At this point, you can avoid a stair step joint pattern by using the pieces of boards cut off when finishing a row (or cut new ones). Be sure these pieces are at least 8 in. (203 mm) long. Always keep the end joints at least 8 in. (203 mm) apart. You can then finish the room as shown in Figures 2.4 - 2.6



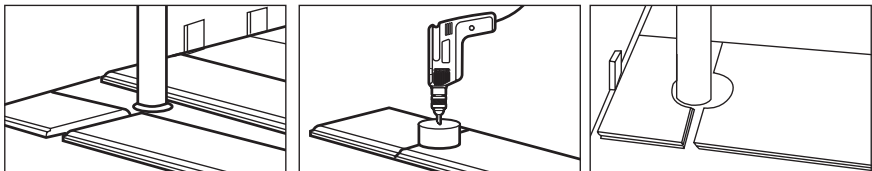
### 3 INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

- Use the pull bar to draw the last row to fit tightly to the previous row (3.1).

## Installation Considerations

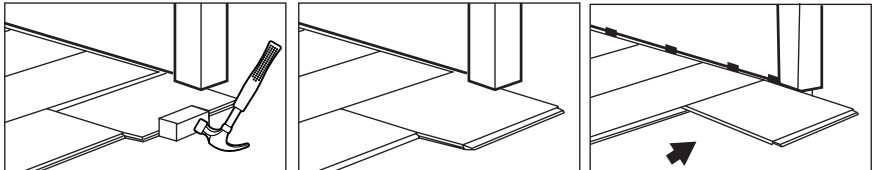
### PIPES

In rows where there is a pipe or other object through the subfloor, make sure the object lines up exactly where two boards will meet on the short ends. Measure carefully before cutting, so the two boards end at the middle of the object. Use a drill or hole bit that is the diameter of the pipe or object, plus 3/4 in. (20 mm) for expansion. Click the two short sides of the boards together, then drill the hole centered on the joint between the boards as shown. Now you can separate the two boards and install as normal.



### UNDER DOOR FRAMES

When cutting boards that will go under the door frame, leave the height of the flooring plus height of the pad under the door frame. When undercutting the door frame, cut far enough under, so that the frame covers the board, and still has enough room for expansion/contraction. Lay the final piece flat with the tongue in the groove, slide in as far as possible with your hands, and then use a tapping block to gently tap into the final position. This board needs to end so that the transition piece used in the doorway ends directly under the middle of the door, plus the expansion gap. If you are installing in the adjacent room, the T-Molding should be centered under the door.

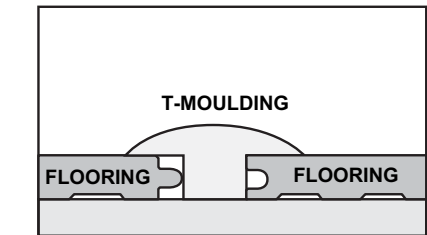


## Accessories

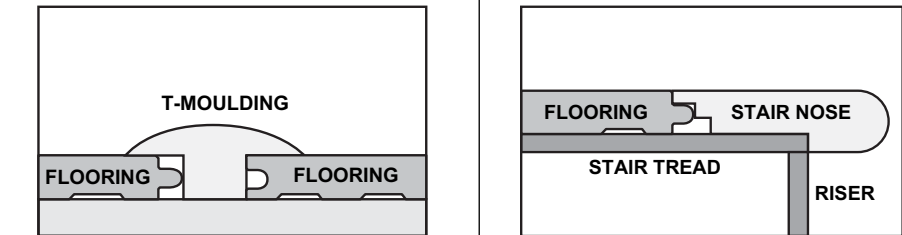
Pictures are for general illustrative purposes only. Actual products may differ from pictures.

- ☐ Clean the floor.
- ☐ Use matching putty where necessary.
- ☐ Install or reinstall all wall trim pieces. Nail them through the wall, but not to the subfloor to avoid restricting the expansion gap.
- ☐ Install transition trim pieces. Nail them to the subfloor, not the flooring.
- ☐ At doorways, transitions should be used to protect the edges of the floor and to provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.
- ☐ If the floor is to be covered, use a breathable material such as cardboard. Do not cover with plastic.

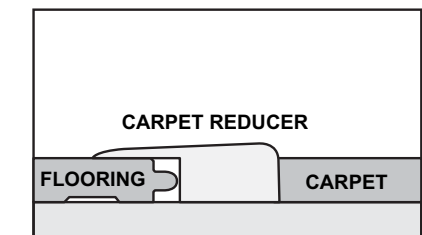
**T-Molding:** Used to create a transition between floor coverings of similar heights or to cover an expansion gap.



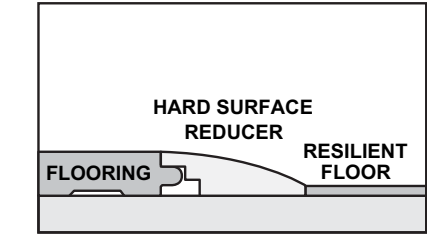
**Stair Nose:** Used in conjunction with flooring installed on stair steps or finished edges of a higher level floor like in a sunken living room.



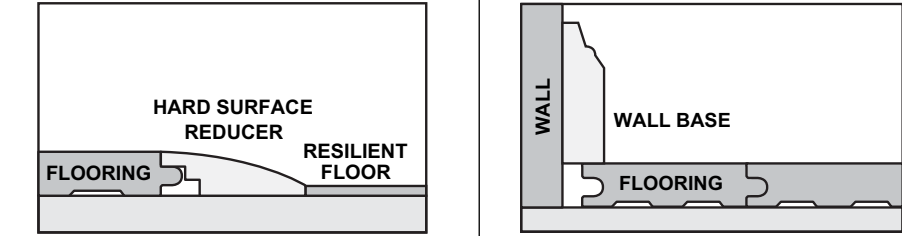
**Carpet Reducer (also called Baby Threshold or End Cap):** Used to transition floor coverings of differing heights. This reducer strip is also commonly used to border a fireplace, sliding glass door and other exterior door jams.



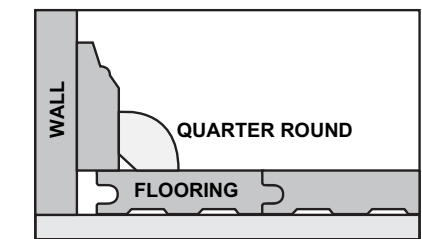
**Hard Surface Reducer:** Used to transition to another hard surface flooring of different heights such as tile, vinyl, or concrete.



**Wall Base:** Used to give a finished look at the base of the walls. It can be used with or without Quarter Round.



**Quarter Round:** Used to cover the expansion space between the wall base and your flooring. It can also be used to make smooth transitions between the floor and cabinetry. It can be used with or without wall base molding.



## Care and Maintenance

### DAILY MAINTENANCE

- ☐ Sweep, dust, mop, or vacuum your floor regularly to remove any particles that could cause abrasion or scratch your floor.

**CAUTION:** Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a floor and should never be used.

- ☐ Use a damp mop to remove spots and soil. Apply appropriate cleaning solution to the cleaning cloth / mop. Do NOT apply directly to the floor.
- ☐ For lightly soiled area, clean with distilled water.
- ☐ For moderately soiled areas, use a mild solution of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and distilled water. Dilute the mixture by mixing one part alcohol and 2 parts distilled water. For tougher spots, use a higher concentration of isopropyl alcohol and distilled water. For extreme cases, a solution of nail polish remover and distilled water can be used.
- ☐ **HINT:** For best results, clean the floor in the same direction of the planks. When the cleaning cloth/mop becomes soiled, rinse or replace it with a clean one. Following up with a clean, dry cloth will remove residual streak marks and spots.
- ☐ Do NOT leave any amount of liquids (water, juice, soft drinks, spills, etc.) on the floor. Clean any wet spots immediately.
- ☐ Do NOT use a steam cleaner.
- ☐ Do NOT use a wet mop or douse the floor with water or liquid cleaners. Liquid can seep between the cracks and cause moisture damage.
- ☐ Do NOT use any cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish. Left over residue will form a dull film.
- ☐ Do NOT use steel wool or scouring powder which will scratch the floor.

### BRANDED OR OFF-THE-SHELF FLOOR CARE PRODUCTS

If none of the above are effective and you choose to use a store bought product, test the product in a non-conspicuous area (i.e., closet, corner, or scrap pieces) for potential adverse side effects.

### PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

- ☐ Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Protective sheets and/or plywood may be needed. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.
- ☐ Place protective pads beneath furniture legs and other heavy objects.
- ☐ Avoid excessive exposure to water from being tracked in during periods of inclement weather.
- ☐ Minimize abrasive material and dirt by placing mats on both sides of exterior doors and by using area rugs in high-traffic areas
- ☐ Rearrange furniture and rugs periodically to avoid uneven color and shade changes from light exposure.
- ☐ Use protective mats beneath rolling chairs and keep furniture casters clean.
- ☐ Keep pets' nails trimmed.
- ☐ Remove shoes with cleats, spikes or exceptionally pointy heels before walking on the floor.

### CLIMATE MAINTENANCE

- ☐ Care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35% - 55% range. Flooring, especially hardwood and bamboo, dimensions will be affected by varying levels of humidity.
- ☐ **Dry Climates:** A humidifier is recommended to maintain humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions during the winter months this also will cause shrinkage in flooring.
- ☐ **Humid, Wet Climates:** By using an air conditioner, heater, or dehumidifier proper humidity levels can be maintained to prevent excessive expansion due to high moisture content.

### FLOOR REPAIR

- ☐ Very light and small surface scratches can be repaired with a staining "touch up" pen of the appropriate color.
- ☐ Slightly deeper scratches can be repaired by means of colored putty and or stains. Fill the scratches with the putty. Level with putty knife. Wipe off excess putty.
- ☐ Very deep scratches may require the replacement of the planks.